(*b*) *Firewood and Charcoal.*

Comparative statement of yield in firewood.

112. The following comparative statement exhibits the outturn of firewood and charcoal, exclusive of the quantities extracted by the coupe contractors:—

Division.	Firewood and Charcoal.	Firewood and Charcoal.
	1895-96.	1896-97.
	C. ft.	C. ft.
Sukkur	2,957,574	2,008,512
Naushahro	816,217	476,061
Hyderabad	383,006	573,537
Jerruck	430,968	93,873
Total ...	4,587,765	3,151,983

113. A decrease is noticeable in all the divisions, except in one, and it is mainly due to the outbreak of plague, which, having decimated the population of large towns, such as Shikarpur, Sukkur, Kohri, etc., caused a considerable reduction in the consumption of the two articles so much in request for the daily necessaries of life, and partly to the restrictions imposed by the Deputy Commissioner, Upper Sind Frontier, to the disposal of wood from waste lands in his district, which were subsequently withdrawn on a representation having been made to the Commissioner in Sind. In the Hyderabad Division, the increase is attributed to the inclusion of a large quantity of firewood and charcoal, cut under share system in 1895-96, in the figures of 1896-97, as it was disposed of in the latter year.

Realisations from coupe sales.

114. The subjoined table shows, among other details, the value realised by the sale of the coupes selected for exploitation:—

Division.	Number of Coupes.	Area in acres.	Value realised.	Average price per acre.
			Rs.	Rs. a. p.
Sukkur	96	11,940	56,000	4 11 1
Naushahro	14	3,428	18,000	5 4 0
Hyderabad	47	3,381	62,000	18 5 5
Jerruck	36	1,602	27,248	17 0 2
Total ...	193	20,351	1,63,248	8 0 4

A comparison of these figures shows a decided improvement upon those of the preceding year, recorded under paragraph 115. Although the total area sold during the year is less by six thousand acres, the prices obtained are in excess by more than four thousand rupees. The average price has also risen, notably in Hyderabad and Jerruck. The forests of these divisions contain magnificent babul (*Acacia Arabica*), and it is the babul bearing area mostly that brings in such good returns. This is one of the reasons why special attention is being paid to the regeneration of the area under forest in Sukkur and Naushahro, which in course of time will have improved not only the quality of the growing stock, but the amount of the sustained yield as well.

Realisations from bahan timber.

115. Bahan (*Populus euphratica*) was exploited under the selection method in the Naushahro and Hyderabad Divisions only. The following statement shows the minimum quantity of the different descriptions of this class of timber which the contractors

agreed to extract before the 30th September 1897 from the areas shown in column 4 of the statement given under paragraph 94, together with the stipulated rates and other details :—

Description of timber.	Minimum quantity to be extracted.	Rate per 100.	Quantity removed during the fuel year ending 30th September 1897.	Less quantity extracted.
Hyderabad Division.	No.	Rs. a. p.	No.	No.
Dasas	700	50 0 0	120	580
Posts	12,500	20 0 0	8,686	3,814
Rafters	257,000	7 8 0	133,950	123,050
Do. (thin) ...	96,875	4 0 0	33,700	63,175
Total ...	367,075	...	176,456	190,619
Naushahro Division.				
Dasas	...	...	...	...
Posts	2,000	7 8 0	...	2,000
Rafters	2,000	5 4 0	...	2,000
Do. (thin) ...	5,000	3 0 0	...	5,000
Total ...	9,000	...	...	9,000

116. It will be observed that the quantities removed and paid for during the year fell far short of the expectations entertained. The scare caused by the outbreak of plague and quarantine restrictions hampered the operations of the contractors to such an extent that sufficient labour could not be procured, even on increased wages, and thus the work of extraction was given up by them as a hopeless task. This accounts for the anticipated outturn being so small.

Supply of firewood to public departments.

117. The following statement shows the quantity of wood fuel supplied by coupe contractors to the North-Western Railway and other departments and public bodies, together with the rates charged :—

To whom supplied and at what rate.	Firewood.
	1896-97.
	Maunds.
North-Western Railway (*vide* paragraph 118, below) ...	1,096,815
Commissioner's Steamer "Jhelum" (actual expenses of cutting and delivering).	9,373
Indus Ferry Steamers (Rs. 22 per 100 mds.) ...	50,420
River Conservancy (Rs. 18 per 100 mds.)	2,517
Public Works Department (Rs. 18 and 21 per 100 mds.) ...	700
Commissariat (Rs. 25 per 100 mds. and $10\frac{3}{4}$ annas per 100 lbs.)	50,676
Hyderabad Water Works (Rs. 21 per 100 mds.) ...	30,000
Sukkur Municipality (Rs. 48 per 1,000 c. ft.)	2,369
Hyderabad Jail (Rs. 25 per 100 mds.)	2,400
Government Farm, Hyderabad (Rs. 21 per 100 mds.) ...	1,000
Port Engineer, Karachi (Rs. 30 per 100 mds.)	74,000
Total ...	1,320,270

118. For the loco. fuel delivered at stations on the N. W. Railway, different rates are paid. They were settled with the Manager in the year 1894, and have remained unchanged ever since. For facility of reference, they are shown in the following schedule :—

No.	Name of Station.	Charges for cutting and delivery per 1,000 c. ft.	Royalty per 1,000 c. ft.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Reti	36	12	48
2	Khairpur	24	12	36
3	Mirpur	24	12	36
4	Sarhad	24	12	36
5	Ghotki	24	12	36
6	Mahesar	24	12	36
7	Pano Akil	24	12	36
8	Sangi	24	12	36
9	Rohri	30	12	42
10	Sukkur	36	12	48
11	Bagarji	26	12	38
12	Ruk	25	12	37
13	Jamra	25	12	37
14	Shikarpur	26	12	38
15	Kot Sultan	24	12	36
16	Humayun	30	12	42
17	Abad	24	12	36
18	Jacobabad	30	12	42
19	Alahdadin	26	12	38
20	Madeji	25	12	37
21	Sehwan	28	12	40
22	Bubak	26	12	38
23	Bhan	26	12	38
24	Khudabad	27	12	39
25	Dadu	36	12	48
26	Phulji	25	12	37
27	Purano Dero	36	12	48
28	Piaro	27	12	39
29	Sita	27	12	39
30	Radhan	36	12	48
31	Badra	25	12	37
32	Naundero	27	12	39
33	Kotri	34 & 36	12	46 & 48
34	Gidu Bandar	36	12	48
35	Budhapur	26	12	38
36	Manjhand	34	12	46
37	Amri	32	12	44
38	Gopang	32	12	44
39	Laki	30 & 32	12	42 & 44

Revenue from the sale of wood under the permit pass system.

119. A comparison of the "Ghat" realisations from the sale of dead wood to retail dealers is exhibited below :—

Division.	Name of Ghat.	Revenue realised.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.
		Rs.	Rs.
Sukkur ...	Rahuja	10,633	6,757
	Jhali		
	Rohri		
	Sadhar	14,531	11,857
	Stewart		
	Khura		
Naushahro ...	Larkana	1,661	2,411
	Garhi Yasin	1,479	1,285
Hyderabad ...	New Fuleli	1,579	1,366
	Old Fuleli		
	Hajipur		
	Matiari	212	328
	Miani	3,152	2,746
Jerruck ...	Khathar	433	339
	Total ...	33,680	27,089

120. The causes which have in the main contributed to a decrease of Rs. 6,591 from this source of revenue have been explained in paragraph 116 in this chapter. It is only two of the out-lying stations (Larkana and Matiari) where "Ghats" are established that show a little increase, resulting from an influx of people into these places at the commencement of the plague, when the quarantine restrictions and segregation rules were not in operation throughout the Province.

(c) Grazing.

Grazing fees.

121. The revenue realised from grazing fees in the different divisions is compared below :—

Division.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.
Sukkur ...	20,958	18,683
Naushahro ...	9,237	9,549
Hyderabad ...	14,331	17,072
Jerruck ...	12,554	13,166
Total ...	57,080	58,470

122. The receipts under this head exceed those of the two previous years by Rs. 9,889 and Rs. 1,390, respectively. The improvement of the year is very satisfactory, notwithstanding the necessity of excluding browsers from a larger area and of carrying out extensive plantation operations, especially in Upper Sind (paragraph 74).